आर्थिक सहायता देने का वचन दिया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन संस्थानों के नाम क्या हैं तथा इन संस्थानों द्वारा कितनी-कितनी धनराशि दी जाएगी तथा यह राशि किस रूप में दी जाएगी; और

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान दी जाने वाली वित्तीय सहायता वर्ष 1996-97 में दी गयी वित्तीय सहायता की तुलना में कम है; यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में तथ्य क्या हैं?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न उत्पन्न नहीं होता।

(ग) जी, नहीं। वर्ष 1996-97 के लिए भारत विकास मंच की बैठक, 1996 में द्विपक्षीय तथा बहुपक्षीय दाताओं द्वारा की गई सरकारी विकास सहायता की कुल वचनबद्धता 6.66 बिलियन अमरीकी डालर थी। वर्ष 1997-98 के लिए भारत विकास मंच की बैठक, 1997 में की गई सरकारी विकास सहायता कुल वचनबद्धता 6.74 बिलियन अमरीकी डालर है, जो कि पिछले वर्ष से कुछ अधिक है।

Newsitem Regarding FEMA

696. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in the Statesman, dated 24th May, 1997 captioned "Weak FEMA may aid white collar crime";

(b) if so, whether the proposed FEMA is strong enough to deal with various financial crimes particularly those relating to the evasion of customs and excise duties; and

(c) whether Government are aware that Section 8, 9 and 16 of FERA are not replicated in FEMA, consequently leading to dropping of proceedings in more than 3000 cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government proposes to repeal FERA 1973 and replace it by Foreign Exchange Management Act. (FEMA), the draft of which is under consideration of the Government.

RBI circular regarding 'at par' facilities to companies

697. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI in 1994 issued a circular to banks with regard to 'at par' facilities granted to compaines for payment of dividend warrants and refund orders;

(b) if so, how many banks have followed the said circular, and

(c) reasons for others not following the said circular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had not issued any circular in 1994 to banks with regard to 'at par' facilities. RBI had only issued a secret Caution Advice dated 7.6.1994 addressed to chief executive officers of all commercial banks on the basis of a fraud reported in 1994 where a bank appointed as refund banker in connection with public issue made by two companies had granted 'at par' facilities & the companies had issued refund orders far in excess of the amount agreed to or deposited with the bank with the result that the account became heavily overdrawn. RBI's Caution Advice described the *modus-Operandi* and cautioned banks against the companies mentioned therein. It did not contain the detailed instructions with regard to 'at par' facility. RBI have stated that with regard to caution advices, RBI calls for acknowledgements and does not call for compliance.

(b) and (c) Dot not arise.

Proposal to regulate tree plantation companies

698. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:
PROF. RAM KAPSE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial companies styling as tree plantation units which have collected over Rs. 10000 crores within just four years do have any expertise in plantation;

(b) what are the activities of such companies;

(c) whether Government have verified their antecedents before giving them permission to collect money; and

(d) whether promises made by these units are reasonable; if so, under what standard Government propose to regulate their activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) Such companies collectively known as plantation or tree companies collect money from the public against allotment of teak/other such items with regard to plantation activities as stated by them.

No Government permission is required to start such collection of money under the existing provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. Accordingly, details of technical expertise are not required to be filed.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has in April, 1996 constituted a Committee to study the growth rate and economics of commercial plantations in this regard.

The Working Draft of the Companies Bill submitted by the Working Group has incorporated a wider definition of 'Securities' to cover 'units' issued by plantation companies with a view to regulating them. The Government is likely to introduce the new Companies Bill in the current Session of Parliament in this regard.

वित्त मंत्रालय के आर्थिक कार्य विभाग में भारतीय आर्थिक सेवा के पद

699. **श्री चुन्नीलाल चौधरी:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वित्त मंत्रालय के आर्थिक कार्य विभाग में भारतीय आर्थिक सेवा के कितने पद हैं;

(ख) कुल पदों में से कितने प्रतिशत पद विभागीय पदोन्नति के माध्यम से भरे जाते हैं;

(ग) विभागीय पदोन्नति के माध्यम से भरे जाने वाले पदों पर अनुसूचित जातियों के कितने अभ्यर्थियों की नियुक्ति हुई है; और

(घ) क्या अनुसूचित जातियों के लिए आरक्षित कोटा पूरी तरह से भर लिया गया है; यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

वित्त मंत्रालय मे राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) वित्त मंत्रालय के आर्थिक कार्य विभाग में भारतीय आर्थिक सेवा के 37 पद हैं।

(ख) कुल पदों में से 78 प्रतिशत पद प्रोन्नति द्वारा भरे जाते हैं।

(ग) और (घ) भारतीय आर्थिक सेवा में भर्ती और प्रोन्नति में आरक्षण का प्रावधान सम्पूर्ण संवर्ग के लिए किया जाता है, जिसके पद 20 विभिन्न विभागों/मंत्रालयों में हैं, अतएवं अनुसूचित जाति के उम्मीदवारों के लिए पदों की संख्या किसी विभाग के लिए विशेष रूप से चिह्नित नहीं की गई हैं। तथापि, भारतीय आर्थिक सेवा के अधिकारियों को प्रोन्नति में आरक्षण सामान्य नियमों के अनुसार दिया जाता है और भारतीय आर्थिक सेवा के लिए आरक्षण कोटा पूर्ण रूप से भरा हुआ है।

Effects of globalisation/economic liberalisation

700. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the widespread discontent in western Europe with the excesses of economic liberalisation, particularly for its contribution to the slackening of growth and decline in employment opportunities;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian experience with globalisation is not dissimilar; and

(c) in view of Government's determination to persist with the policy of economic liberalisation, measures proposed to be adopted to protect the incomes and earnings of the vast majority of the country's population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL